

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A safety needle assembly comprising a needle hub with proximal and distal ends and a passage extending between said ends,

a needle cannula mounted to said passage of said needle hub and having a pointed distal end projecting beyond said distal end of said hub,

a shield having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end of said shield being hingedly mounted to said hub for rotation from a first position where said shield is spaced from said needle cannula to a second position where said shield substantially shields said needle cannula,-said shield comprising at least one support wall, and a channel mounted to said support wall, said channel having a top wall and opposed first and second sidewalls extending from said top wall, and at least one resiliently deflectable cannula finger lock projecting from said first sidewall angularly toward said top wall,

wherein said channel can be selectively mounted to said support wall in one of a plurality of orientations in relation to one another.

2. (Original) The safety shield assembly of claim 1, wherein said needle hub comprises an inner tubular portion securely mounted to said needle cannula and an outer collar securely mounted over said inner tubular portion, said shield being hingedly mounted to said collar of said hub.

3. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said needle cannula includes a proximal end, said needle cannula extending entirely through said passage of said hub such that said proximal end of said needle cannula projects proximally beyond said proximal end of said hub.

4. (Original)The safety needle assembly of claim 3, further comprising an elastomeric sleeve mounted over said proximal end of said needle cannula and securely engaged to said

proximal end of said hub.

5. (Currently Amended) A safety needle assembly comprising
a needle hub with proximal and distal ends and a passage extending between said
ends,

a needle cannula mounted to said passage of said needle hub and having a pointed
distal end projecting beyond said distal end of said hub,

a shield having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end of said shield being
hingedly mounted to said hub for rotation from a first position where said shield is spaced
from said needle cannula to a second position where said shield substantially shields said
needle cannula, said shield comprising at least one support wall, and a channel mounted to
said support wall, said channel having a top wall and opposed first and second sidewalls
extending from said top wall, and at least one resiliently deflectable cannula finger lock,
wherein said top wall of said channel comprises mounting structure for mounting said
channel to said support wall, whereby said channel can be disposed in either a first ~~rotational~~
orientation or in a second ~~rotational~~ orientation relative to said support wall for altering
positions of said channel relative to said needle cannula.

6. (Currently Amended) The safety needle assembly of claim 5, wherein said support
wall has a distal end remote from said proximal end of said shield, said channel being
dimensioned such that, in said second ~~rotational~~ orientation of said channel relative to said
support wall, said second end of said channel projects distally beyond said distal end of said
support wall.

7. (Currently Amended) The safety needle assembly of claim 6, wherein said channel
is dimensioned such that in said first ~~rotational~~ orientation, said first end of said channel
substantially aligns with said distal end of said support wall.

8. (Currently Amended) The needle assembly of claim 7, wherein said channel is
dimensioned such that in said first ~~rotational~~ orientation, said second end of said channel is
substantially adjacent said proximal end of said shield.

9. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 5, wherein said at least one cannula finger lock comprises a plurality of cannula finger locks, a first of said cannula finger locks being substantially adjacent said first end of said channel and a second of said cannula finger locks being substantially adjacent said second end of said channel.

10. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said support wall comprises a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, said channel having a plurality of mounting projections formed thereon, said mounting projections being dimensioned and disposed for locked engagement with said apertures in said support wall.

11. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein portions of said shield adjacent said proximal end are configured for partly surrounding said hub, said support wall extending substantially rigidly from said portions of said shield dimensioned for partly surrounding said hub.

12. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said channel has an elongate convexly arcuate outer surface, said support wall having a concave surface for closely receiving said convex outer surface of said channel.

13. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, further comprising a medical device connected to said needle hub.

14. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 13, wherein the medical device comprises a holder for releasably receiving a fluid collection tube.

15. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 13, wherein the medical device is a syringe.

16. (Original) The safety needle assembly of claim 13, wherein the medical device comprises an intravenous infusion set.

17. (Previously Presented) A safety needle assembly comprising a needle hub with proximal and distal ends and a passage extending between said ends,

a needle cannula mounted to said passage of said needle hub and having a pointed distal end projecting beyond said distal end of said hub,

a shield having proximal and distal ends, said proximal end of said shield being hingedly mounted to said hub for rotation from a first position where said shield is spaced from said needle cannula to a second position where said shield substantially shields said needle cannula, said shield comprising at least one support wall, a channel mounted to said support wall, said channel having a top wall and opposed first and second sidewalls extending from said top wall, at least one cannula finger lock projecting from said first sidewall angularly toward said top wall,

wherein said support wall comprises at least one aperture extending therethrough, said channel having at least one mounting projection formed thereon, said at least one mounting projection being dimensioned and disposed for locked engagement with said at least one aperture in said support wall.

Claims 18 to 21 (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The safety needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one cannula finger lock comprises a plurality of cannula finger locks.

23. (Previously Presented) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein said support wall comprises a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, said channel having a plurality of mounting projections formed thereon, said mounting projections being dimensioned and disposed for locked engagement with said apertures in said support wall.

24. (Previously Presented) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein portions of said shield adjacent said proximal end are configured for partly surrounding said hub, said support wall extending substantially rigidly from said portions of said shield dimensioned for partly surrounding said hub.

25. (Previously Presented) The safety needle assembly of claim 17, wherein said channel has an elongate convexly arcuate outer surface, said support wall having a concave surface for closely receiving said convex outer surface of said channel.

26. (Previously Presented) The safety needle assembly of claim 5, wherein said channel further comprising first and second longitudinal ends, said mounting structure being closer to said first end of said channel than to said second end.